



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**FEDERAL OFFICER INDICTED FOR ASSISTING ILLEGAL ALIENS**

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today the indictment and arrest of Senior U.S. Immigration Inspector HECTOR AYBAR-MENDEZ, age 45, of Kissimmee for conspiracy to violate the immigration and social security laws of the United States and other immigration-related violations. AYBAR-MENDEZ is assigned to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, part of the recently formed United States Department of Homeland Security, and formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the United States Department of Justice.

The nine count indictment specifically charges that AYBAR-MENDEZ, while employed as a Senior Immigration Inspector with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, forged, altered and falsely made immigration documentation and admission stamps in the passports of his paramour, her children and her niece, all Colombian citizens who were unlawfully residing in the United States. The indictment also charges that

AYBAR-MENDEZ aided and abetted those illegal aliens in the unlawful acquisition of social security cards with the false identification documents supplied by AYBAR-MENDEZ. The indictment additionally alleges that by providing the illegal aliens with the altered and falsely made immigration documentation, AYBAR-MENDEZ harbored and shielded them from detection and apprehension within the United States. If convicted, AYBAR faces up five years' imprisonment for Counts One, Eight and Nine and up to ten years' imprisonment on Counts Two through Seven of the Indictment.

This investigation was being conducted by the United States Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General, the Orange County Sheriff's Office and, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Domestic Security Task Force. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey S. Downing.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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